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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 AID-20 SS-15 BNDE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00

USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /115 W
---------- 023410
R 240905 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2110

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9162

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SNAR, VS
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN: VISUNAM

REF: STATE 092079

1. MISSION SINCERELY APPRECIATES WORKING GROUP' S COMMENDATION AND COMMENTS ON NCAP. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON ISSUES RAISED IN REFTEL.

2. DISPOSAL OF SEIZED NARCOTICS
GVN HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY PLAN TO BURN THEIR ENTIRE SEZIED HEROIN INVENTORY AT PUBLIC CEREMONY MARKING SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR VI- DAN (FOR THE PEOPLE) CAMPAIGN JULY 1. THE PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO PRESIDE AND AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO KEY FIGURES IN NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT. AS FOR VAST OPIUM STOCKS, GVN HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH MALINCKRODT COMPANY OF ST. LOUIS TO SEEL OPIUM FOR PHARMACEUTICAL USE. MALINCKRODT HAS BEEN TESTING SAMPLES OF THE DRUG AND WE EXPECT DEAL WILL BE MADE IN NEAR FUTURE. MULTI- TON OPIUM HAUL FROM TRAWLER CAPTURED IN APRIL WILL HAVE TO REMUDN IMPOUNDED AS EVIDENCE UNTIL CASE GOES TO TRIAL. AFTER THAT IT ALSO WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE TO COMMERCIAL BUYERS.

3. AIR TRAFFICKING INTERDICTION
AS REPORTED EARLIER, US CUSTOMS TEAM HERE LAST YEAR SUCCEEDDED
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IN PERUSADING GVN TO PRODUCE LEGISLATION RESTRICTING AUTHORIZED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS OF ENTRY TO THOSE LOCATIONS WHERE GVN CUSTOMS TEAMS ARE ON DUTY. IN VIEW OF VERY LARGE NUMBER OF AIRFIELDS LOCATED
THROUGHOUT VIETNAM, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOW ABANDONED BUT USEABLE, THREAT OF SMUGGLING BY PRIVATE OR VNAF AIRCRAFT, BOTH AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED, WILL BE PERENNIAL PROBLEM. AT PRESENT, GVN CUSTOMS
INVESTIGATES VNAF AND OTHER FLIGHTS WHEN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS RAISE SUSPICIONS. WHILE DANGER WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST FOR FORSEEABLE FUTURE, SECURITY SITUATION WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE INVASION OF LAST YEAR HAS CAUSED NUMBER OF UNSHCEDULED, UNAUTHORIZED CROSS-BORDER
FLIGHTS TO DWINDLE TO POINT WHERE IT UNLIKELY THAT NARCOTICS COULD BE BROUGHT INTO COUNTRY IN THIS MANNNER ON REGULAR OR SYS-TEMATIC BASIS.

4. FRINGE AMERICA,
WE REMAIN MOST CONCERNED ABOUT OUR INABILITY TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. SUBSTANIAL NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED DRIFTERS CONTINUE TO INHABIT SAIGON AND OTHER LARGE URBAN CENTERS AND PROVIDE LIVELY MARKET FOR NARCOTICS PUSHERS. WHILE WE HAVE DEVELOPED PROCEDURES FOR GETTING APPREHENDED DESERTERS OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND
BACK INTO THE HANDS OF U. S. MILITARY AUTHORITES, WE ARE STYMIED BY U. S. CIVILIAN FRINGE POPULATION. WHILE NATIONAL POLICE AND JUDICIARY ARE ASSIDUOUSLY MAKING ARRESTS WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY, CONVICTIONS IN MOST CASES ARE FOR PETTY CRIMES OR DRUG USE WICH CARRY SENTENCES OF ONLY ONE OR TWO MONTHS, AFTER WHICH RELEASED DRIFTERS
RESUME THEIR ACTIVITIES. EVEN WHEN REPATRIATION FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM FAMILIES, FORMER EMPLOYERS OR DEPARTMENT, INDIVIDUALS IN NEARLY
ALL CASES REFUSE VOLUNTARILY TO LEAVE VIETNAM. AS OF NOW, EVEN THOUGH
GVN DESIRES TO EXPEL SUCH PEOPLE THEY, AS WE, HAVE NO MEANS OF FORCIBLY CONVEYING DEPORTEES TO U. S.
WHITEHOUSE

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